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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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March 22, 1995

FEMINIST GLORIA STEINEM FEATURED IN 'WOMEN MAKING HISTORY' LECTURE

MISSOULA--

Gloria Steinem, one of the nation's most widely read and critically acclaimed feminists, will give the Second Annual Maxine Van de Wetering American Women Making History Lecture Thursday, April 6, at The University of Montana - Missoula.

Steinem will present "Feminism in Everyday Life," a free public lecture at 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. She tentatively is scheduled for a book-signing at the University Bookstore from 2 to 4 p.m. on the same day.

Her Missoula visit also includes an appearance as guest speaker for the Blue Mountain Clinic's benefit dinner on April 5 at the Elk's Club. Call the clinic at 728-5067 for more information.

"We're delighted that Gloria Steinem can be a lecturer for American Women Making History, since she has genuinely done this throughout her life," said Julia Watson, director of the UM Women's Studies Program. "We're grateful that her support for the Blue Mountain Clinic sparked her interest in coming to Missoula."

Steinem's name has long been synonymous with the American feminist movement. Her interests are in the shared origins and parallels between caste systems based on sex and race, non-violent conflict resolution and organizing across national boundaries for social justice and peace.

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"Gloria Steinem has been an inspiration for generations of women worldwide and we look forward to a stirring evening with her," Watson said.

In 1972, Steinem co-founded Ms. magazine and continues to serve as an editorial consultant and writer for the international, bi-monthly publication. She has written several books, including "Revolution From Within: A Book of Self-Esteem," a bestseller published in 1992, and "Moving Beyond Words," a new collection of feminist essays.

Steinem travels extensively as a lecturer and feminist organizer and frequently appears on television and radio programs as an interviewer and spokeswoman on issues of equality.

She serves as a board member or adviser to each of the organizations she helped found: The Ms. Foundation for Women, the only national multi-issue, multi-racial public women's fund; the National Women's Political Caucus, a non-partisan organization that promotes women of all races for elected and appointed office; the Women's Action Alliance, a national association that builds communication among women's groups; and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, which advances women and issues of female equality in existing and future unions.

In 1978, Steinem took a year off from the lecture circuit to study feminism's impact on political theory as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar at the Smithsonian Institute. She has raised funds and written for the political campaigns of many female and minority candidates. Steinem also has worked for Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers, and other efforts for social and economic justice and peace.

For nine consecutive years, Steinem was chosen as one of the 25 Most Influential Women in America by World Almanac. She also has received numerous honors and awards, including the

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Penney-Missouri Journalism Award, the Front Page and Clarion awards, the first Doctorate of Human Justice awarded by Simmons College, the Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Ceres Medal from the United Nations and many honorary degrees. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in the fall of 1993.

Steinem graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1956. She lived in India for almost two years as a Chester Bowles Asian Fellow and a writer for Indian publications.

Her Missoula visit is sponsored by the UM Women's Studies Program, with support from the Louise Greene-Elizabeth Smith Endowment.

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Contacts: Julia Watson or Colleen Hunter, 243-2584, and Jeffrey Brown, University Bookstore, 721-5844.

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